

Rambam

ISSUE NO.33 | OCTOBER 2025

on call

TWO WARS, ONE MISSION

Rambam Rises to
the Challenge

UNSEEN WOUNDS

The Younes and
Soraya Nazarian
Mental Health
and Wellness
Clinic

THE CITADEL OF CARE

New Fortified
Critical Care
Medicine Division

2025 RAMBAM SUMMIT

ADVANCING NEUROSCIENCES

A Bold New
Addition to Campus



RAMBAM
Health Care Campus

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PROF. MICHAEL HALBERTHAL

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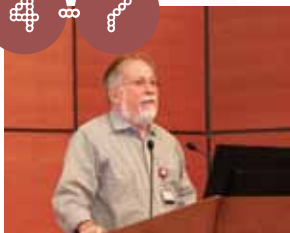
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SPECIAL EVENTS

DEAR FRIENDS,

As I reflect on my more than 39 years at Rambam, I am filled with gratitude and pride. From my earliest days as a medical student to my tenure as Director General, I have seen this hospital rise time and again to meet challenges that tested our strength, our spirit, and our very resilience as a nation.

Over the past year, our resilience and resolve were put to the test. Now, in the 33rd edition of this magazine, we share stories that remind us of what we've faced and how each of these challenges helped us grow.

We have emerged from the challenges of Operation Rising Lion and continue to navigate the realities of the Swords of Iron War. We share in the nation's relief and gratitude as many of the hostages returned home after two harrowing years in captivity, and we anxiously await for those who haven't yet returned. We also honor the memory of those who were lost and stand with the families in our community who have endured unimaginable pain and sacrifice.

As Operation Rising Lion commenced on June 13, 2025, we activated and transferred patients to the Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital (FUEH) in just 15.5 hours. We received hundreds of patients from six regional hospitals, including premature infants, ventilated patients, and other critically ill individuals. This achievement proved once again that the FUEH is a national strategic asset for Israel's safety and survival.

As war raged above, the cycle of life continued underground and miracles happened. Hundreds of babies were born, including a set of triplets. We performed emergency surgeries and saved countless lives. The infants and children of our employees were cared for safely in our underground daycare center—far from the aboveground chaos.

We were forced to postpone this year's Summit until September, but I'm thrilled that we were able to honor our extraordinary Rambam Award recipients: Nobel Laureate Professor Aaron Ciechanover, Ariela Wertheimer, the Israel Navy, and, in their

absence, our dear friends Dr. Genaro Levinson from Mexico and Fernanda and Marcelo Kalim from Brazil, who received the award in their respective countries. To my great surprise, I was also honored with the Rambam Award—something I did not expect but will cherish for the rest of my life. Thank you so much!

During my tenure, our campus has grown exponentially with the opening of the Eyal Ofer Heart Hospital, construction of the Helmsley Health Discovery Tower, and the renovation of the Herta and Paul Amir Internal Medicine Building. Soon, the Azrieli Foundation Pediatric Rehabilitation Center will open which will change the lives of children in Northern Israel. The recently opened Younes and Soraya Mental Health and Wellness Clinic is a new home for the treatment of PTSD patients and those requiring significant emotional support and care. Additionally, we have commenced construction of a fortified Critical Care Medicine Division.

Over the years, Rambam has undergone extraordinary transformation. We acquired additional state-of-the-art equipment and systems, expanded our clinical services, and increased patient capacity. Each milestone represents more than bricks and mortar. It is the realization of a vision: to bring world-class medicine, groundbreaking research, and compassionate care to all who need us. Staying true to our vision and mission is what sustains Rambam's standing as an international leader in medicine.

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Michal Mekel on her well-deserved appointment as Director General of Rambam. I have seen her wisdom, professionalism, and dedication firsthand, and I know she will guide Rambam's future with strength and grace.

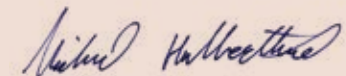
Through every crisis and every triumph, Rambam's true strength has been its people. Our physicians, nurses, researchers, administrators, and support staff are the heartbeat of this hospital. To our friends in Israel and around the world—your partnership has empowered us to dream boldly, build

courageously, and heal with purpose. I thank you all, and extend my special thanks to Rambam's management who have stood with me during my tenure.

On a personal note, I'd like to thank my wife, Marlene, our children Adi, Guy, Amit, and Hadas, our grandchildren, my brother Rubi, my late parents, Chana and Menachem, and my entire family in Israel and abroad, whose love and support sustained me throughout this journey. And I thank you for entrusting me with the mission that has defined my life: to heal, to serve, and to safeguard the future of public health in Israel.

This is my last message to you as Director General and as an employee of Rambam. I wish you all the very best.

Warm regards.



Michael Halberthal, MD, MHA
Clinical Associate Professor
Director General, Rambam Health Care Campus





Prof. MICHAEL HALBERTHAL THROUGH THE YEARS 2019-2025



► Dr. Qanta Ahmed with Prof. Miki Halberthal and Prof. Zaher Azzam visiting the Fortified Underground Hospital



TWO WARS ONE MISSION

The past two years have touched each of us in a profound way. Following October 7, 2023, Rambam's role as a national strategic asset came into sharp focus. Based on a meticulous plan developed more than a decade ago and lessons learned from the second Lebanon War—we sprang into action and initiated our emergency response. Above and below ground, we prepared to treat thousands of patients, both in the Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital (FUEH), and in fortified areas across the campus.

We faced a surge of injured individuals and those with war-related conditions intensified by staff shortages as many personnel were called up for reserve duty. *Swords of Iron* continued, and the plight of the hostages and soldiers weighed heavily on our hearts, yet our unity and resolve never faltered. We held emergency drills, solidarity rallies, and memorial ceremonies.

In September 2024, as tensions mounted along Israel's northern border, Rambam activated the FUEH where every department operates in a designated zone, ensuring patients are treated with dignity and respect—

even under challenging conditions.

With speed and precision, we absorbed patients and additional staff from two Haifa hospitals: Carmel Medical Center and Fliman Geriatric Center. The transfer process was executed seamlessly, and for six weeks, until safety was restored, these patients received full medical care in the underground facility.

Many renowned international media agencies, including FOX, ABC, NBC, The Wall Street Journal, BBC, Der Spiegel, and many more visited the campus and relayed the significance of the FUEH to millions across the globe.

Following a visit to Rambam, Dr. Qanta Ahmed, physician, international journalist and commentator, was interviewed on ABC News where she shared the game-changing importance of the FUEH.

When *Operation Rising Lion* began on June 13, 2025,



► Transfer and treatment of patient to the Fortified Underground Hospital

Rambam reactivated emergency protocols, and the FUEH was mobilized in record time. Non-urgent patients were discharged, elective surgeries postponed, and some outpatient services temporarily suspended.

For the second time in months, patients and staff from Carmel Medical Center and Fliman Geriatric Center were admitted. After

that, patients from other unfortified regional hospitals: Hillel Yaffe Medical Center, Sha'ar Menashe Mental Health Center, Shoham Geriatric Center, Wolfson Medical Center, and Assuta Dialysis Institute were transferred to the FUEH, including premature infants, the elderly, ventilated patients, and other complex cases.

The FUEH is a model of healthcare readiness. Each hospital department has its own zone—from triage to maternity, internal medicine to dialysis, operating rooms and more—delivering compassionate care at the highest standard.

Miracles happened. During the 12 days of *Operation Rising*

Lion, Rambam treated 217 patients suffering from war-related conditions, including anxiety and wounds ranging from mild to critical. But, amid the hardship, hundreds of new lives entered the world underground, including a set of triplets.

During *Swords of Iron*, and again during *Rising Lion*, to support staff working around the clock, a unique underground daycare center was opened, accommodating up to 450 children, aged 3 months to 12 years. It ensured that the children of Rambam staff were safe, nurtured, and engaged by professional educators and volunteers.

Often, many times each day, as sirens wailed and missiles flew overhead, thousands of staff and visitors rushed to shelter in the FUEH and fortified spaces across the campus. We waited for updates and an "all-clear" from the Home Front Command, supported one another, and then returned to our duties with resolve, determination, and heads held high.

Above ground, between October 7 and the following 20 months, the fortified ER treated over 1,600 patients suffering from war-related conditions. A substantial proportion of these cases involved severe, critical, or life-threatening trauma necessitating hospitalization.

Over the past two years, friends from around the world—both in Israel and abroad—have rallied to support us. They sent comforting messages, offered their help, and stood by our side. Thanks to their generosity, we received vital donations that ensured our urgent needs were met and that we were prepared for every possible scenario.

Rambam and the FUEH are lifelines that provide shelter, safety, and survival. Each of you makes that possible.

EYECON: RAMBAM'S BREAKTHROUGH FOR COMA PATIENTS

In July 2024, twenty-year-old Canadian-born Ben (Benji) Brown, a lone soldier in the IDF's elite Golani Brigade, was just one month away from completing his military service when a Hezbollah missile slammed into his base near Israel's northern border. A piece of shrapnel tore through his helmet, injuring his brain. Benji was airlifted to Rambam, where doctors fought to save his life. The severe trauma had left him in a comatose state.

Thousands of kilometers away in Toronto, his parents received the news and rushed to Benji's bedside. They believed in their son's fighting spirit and were confident that he would recover.

While still in the ICU, Benji's recovery and rehabilitation began thanks to a groundbreaking invention called the EyeCon system developed by Rambam physician-scientists and life-partners, Dr. Goded Shahaf, director of the Applied Neurophysiology Lab, Dr. Dana Baron Shahaf, head of the Neuroanesthesia Unit, and a team from Reuth Rehabilitation Center.

The EyeCon system is a groundbreaking solution that promotes communication in comatose patients and enables a pathway for their rehabilitation. It is the world's only

rehabilitation system designed to bridge this critical gap.

The device is built on evidence from large independent studies using fMRI and high-density EEG, which have shown that some patients who appear fully unconscious may, in fact, be attentive – indicating an underlying level of awareness. At the same time, eye movement provides a practical channel for communication: even a simple blink can serve as a signal. Blinking is a fundamental brain reflex that is typically preserved even after severe injury, and only lost when damage is both widespread and symmetrical.

The EyeCon system is composed of four elements: EEG



► Benji and his brother Zach before the injury



► Benji with his mother Annette

and EMG electrodes placed on the patient's forehead; an innovative analysis that interprets the electrophysiological signals to identify the patient's level of attention and blinking; a family member who operates the system and leads the rehabilitation of their loved one; and a clinician who guides the family throughout the process.

"The EyeCon is a unique system that opens a channel of communication, enabling rehabilitation to begin even in the ICU. It's user-friendly so family members can actively participate in their loved one's recovery," says Dr. Baron Shahaf, who led Benji's EyeCon rehabilitation program.

"Through intentional blinking and practice, patients learn to generate a 'yes' response to auditory stimuli and carefully structured leading questions, express their wishes, and begin to take some control of their environment," she adds.

Gradually, Benji's blinks became clear messages, and he began communicating his needs and wishes.

"His physicians said Zman (time) and Savlanut (patience) are needed," explains Benji's mom, Annette. "It's amazing to see his progress, from where he was to where he is now. It's beyond unimaginable. Without the care of Dr. Lior Lev Tov, director of the Department of Functional Neurosurgery, and Dr. Dana Baron Shahaf by our side, this story would never have been told. Our family thanks them—and the entire Rambam team—wholeheartedly."

After 10 weeks at Rambam, his physical condition had improved, and with an established channel of communication, Benji was discharged from Rambam and began a physical rehabilitation program at Loewenstein Rehabilitation Hospital in Ra'anana. Recently he was discharged from there and returned home. Supported by his loved ones, his verbal skills continue to improve.

We were honored and delighted to host Benji, his mother, family members, and caregiver at the recent Rambam Summit, during which his road to recovery was screened in a moving video.

The EyeCon system, developed and used at Rambam, has spread to hospitals across Israel. Dozens of patients once thought to be unconscious have regained communication and begun rehabilitation. Now, as the system expands internationally, EyeCon stands as the only technology designed to bring patients from silence to connection—the first step toward recovery.



► Dr. Dana Baron Shahaf and Dr. Goded Shahaf



1. The electrodes in the headband record the brain activity and eye muscle contractions	2. The system plays a music clip the patient enjoys for 30 seconds	3. EyeCon prompts the operator to encourage the patient to blink to resume the music: (a) If the patient blinks, the music resumes (b) If the patient does not blink, the system analyses and provides guidance	4. The clinician remotely reviews session data offline and adjusts the treatment plan as needed
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UNSEEN WOUNDS: RAMBAM HELPS IDF VETERANS HEAL THE BATTLE WITHIN

THE YOUNES AND SORAYA NAZARIAN MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS CLINIC

The vicious terrorist assault unleashed by Hamas on October 7th, 2023, and the ensuing two years of war, have deeply affected almost every single Israeli. The entire nation suffered through months of missile bombardments from Gaza in the South, Hezbollah in the North and from Iran's deadly ballistic missile and drone attacks.

Mental health experts have characterized this widespread exposure to war, acts of terror and devastating missile attacks, as a kind of nationwide mass trauma. Although difficult to predict with certainty, it has been estimated that over half a million Israelis either have or will develop Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Among the groups most deeply affected by this condition are Israel's combat veterans. Many of them experienced devastating injuries, while personally witnessing the deaths of close friends, their brothers-in-arms, in the fierce battles of the war.



(Freepik.com)

Rambam Health Care Campus has experienced a dramatic rise in the number of veterans seeking treatment for PTSD. Rambam is taking meaningful action to expand treatment and promote individual and societal resilience and healing from the unprecedented national trauma of the last two years.

Through the generosity of the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Family Foundation, Rambam has completed construction and has now opened the *Younes and Soraya Nazarian Mental Health and Wellness Clinic* for treatment of our PTSD patients.

This new, state-of-the-art Clinic builds on Rambam's unequalled experience in treating both the physical and emotional trauma experienced by the veterans of Israel's wars. As the region's leading referral medical center and the exclusive Level 1 trauma center in Northern Israel, Rambam has long cared for the region's most severely injured soldiers, in times of peace and in times of war.

Armed conflicts have long been associated with increased rates of mental health disorders. For decades, Rambam has been treating the complex needs of military veterans suffering from PTSD and other mental health issues. The Ministry of Defense Veterans' Psychiatric Outpatient Clinic at Rambam is the first of its kind in the country, and has been serving the psychiatric and psychological needs of veterans of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) for more than 40 years. Out of nearly 9,000 military veterans currently being treated at Rambam, over 60% are suffering from severe, chronic, combat-related PTSD.



► L-R Dr. Esty Golan, Prof. Rafi Beyar and Soraya Nazarian at Rambam

The new Clinic is greatly enhancing Rambam's ability to meet the growing demand for PTSD treatment among Israel's military veterans. Located at Haifa's City Center Building, the Clinic is near Rambam, but is not on the Hospital's campus, and it is readily accessible to patients from all over the region. Some patients, especially those who have suffered a traumatic event, find it difficult to receive treatment in a hospital environment. Rambam seeks to eliminate any perceived stigma, and is providing our military veterans with a calm, welcoming "non-hospital" environment. In addition, the new facility is fully accessible to disabled individuals. This is crucial, as many patients also suffer from serious physical injuries, and require accessible facilities.



► One of the clinic's treatment rooms



► The clinic's reception lounge

At the heart of the Clinic is a highly trained multi-disciplinary team which includes psychiatrists, psychologist, clinical social workers and more. To meet the growing demand, Rambam has significantly expanded its professional staff.

The Clinic includes 18 private treatment rooms, two group treatment rooms, administrative and other facilities. Among the services provided by the Clinic are:

- Consultation with a psychiatrist, as needed
- Regular meetings/follow-up on the patient's mental health condition
- Regular follow-up to evaluate efficacy of pharmacological treatments
- Psycho-educational treatments to provide patients with effective techniques for dealing with ordinary, daily events which may trigger adverse psychological reactions in PTSD patients
- Group therapy sessions, including nature therapy, anger management sessions, and other treatments to help patients deal with management of their lives

The Clinic offers new technologies and customized programs to allow patients to more effectively process their trauma. The Clinic strives to facilitate the patient's return to normal routines, and reintegration with families and communities. **The establishment of the Clinic was also supported by The Jewish Federations of North America, UJA-Federation of New York, Combined Jewish Philanthropies, and the Grace and Truth Congregation.**

Rambam is very proud to play a meaningful role in helping those who have made extraordinary personal sacrifices to defend our nation during a time of unprecedented, existential threat. We are grateful to our cherished friends for standing at our side, and for giving us the resources to do so.

THE CITADEL OF CARE: RAMBAM IS BUILDING A NEW FORTIFIED CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE DIVISION

During the Swords of Iron War and Operation Rising Lion, Rambam Health Care Campus was a major center for the treatment of the most severely injured soldiers and civilians from all over the country. Many of the injured received dedicated, expert care in Rambam's intensive care units. One such patient was David*, a soldier from an elite IDF combat unit, who sustained critical injuries in the fierce battles in Lebanon. David was airlifted to Rambam, where he underwent multiple surgeries, was sedated and ventilated for weeks, while Rambam's medical teams fought tirelessly to keep him alive. Miraculously, after 30 days, David regained consciousness and is on the road to recovery.

David's care posed enormous challenges, which were exacerbated by the need to transport him, as well as all other intensive care patients to our Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital (FUEH). Rambam's existing Critical Care Medicine Division is over 25 years old, and it is not fortified. The need to transport these patients exposed them to significant risk. In addition, conditions in the FUEH are ill-suited to the type of specialized care they need.

With the help of generous friends,

Rambam is changing this grim reality. A new, fully fortified Critical Care Medicine Division is now under construction on our campus. Rambam's Critical Care Medicine Division is the largest in Northern Israel, and treats over 1,000 patients each year suffering from catastrophic multi-system injuries, severe burns, infectious illnesses and life-threatening chronic diseases. During wartime, the number of patients in the Division is significantly higher.

The FUEH proved its effectiveness, over the last two years, in protecting our patients and medical teams from missile attacks. It is, however, not well suited to the needs of patients in intensive care. These patients

are extremely fragile, and just the process of transporting them to the FUEH exposed them to major risk of destabilization and medical complications.

Conditions in the FUEH are also poorly suited for the needs of these patients. At times, we had nearly 1,000 patients there in beds separated only by curtains.

Many of our intensive care patients suffer from conditions which make them highly susceptible to infection. Under these conditions, it was not possible to provide the kind of infection control needed. Intensive care patients are often sedated and unconscious, requiring continuous nursing care and provision of personal hygiene,



► Fortified ICU rendering (exterior)



► ICU patient transferred to Underground Hospital for treatment during the Swords of Iron War

including bed-baths. Conditions in the FUEH make it difficult to afford our ICU patients the personal dignity they deserve.

• A total of 24 single patient rooms, a significant increase over the current 18 beds, some of which are in rooms holding multiple patients

With the generous support of the **Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust** under the leadership of **Mr. Sandor Frankel**, as well as other donors, including **Mrs. Ella Galil, Mr. and Mrs. Marcelo and Fernanda Kalim, ZIM Integrated Shipping Co., Mr. and Mrs. Zeev and Sara Horovitz, and the Israeli Government**, Rambam is building the new Fortified Critical Care Medicine Division (FCCMD).

This world-class facility will be fully fortified, expand our existing capacity to provide medical intensive care services and meet global standards for infection prevention and control.

The FCCMD will be constructed adjacent to the Sammy Ofer Tower, and will include:

- 16 of these rooms will be glass enclosed, positive air pressure rooms to promote sterile conditions and protect patients susceptible to infection
- 4 rooms will be negative pressure rooms with specialized equipment for the treatment of burn patients
- 4 rooms will be negative pressure rooms to isolate individuals with known or suspected airborne infectious diseases

The FCCMD will be one of the most technologically advanced ICUs in Israel, applying AI tools developed from a massive database of more than 10,000 patients to prevent complications such as sepsis and organ failure.

Professor Yaron Bar-Lavie, director of the Division of Critical Care Medicine, stated: "The new FCCMD will provide a protected, modern environment for our ICU patients and facilitate uninterrupted care under all conditions. It will reaffirm Rambam's leadership as a center of excellence in critical care, innovation and medical preparedness, in times of peace and in times of war."

**His name was changed for security purposes.*



► Fortified ICU renderings

THE 2025 RAMBAM SUMMIT IN REVIEW

SEPTEMBER 13-14

The annual Rambam Summit is more than an event—it's a celebration of progress, partnership, and purpose. It offers our friends and supporters a firsthand look at Rambam's achievements, medical innovations, and the inspiring individuals who drive them forward.

This year, representatives from our International Friends' Associations and friends from Israel joined us for a meaningful experience led by Prof. Halberthal, Prof. Beyar, Dr. Mekel, Dr. Golan, and Rambam's senior management.

The Summit commenced on September 13 with an elegant dinner at the Botanica Hotel in the German Colony, setting the tone for the remainder of the event. The dinner honored the Rambam Award recipients: Prof. Ciechanover, Ariela Wertheimer, the Israeli Navy, and—in their absence—Marcelo and Fernanda Kalim, along with Dr. Genaro Levinson from Latin America. Ciechanover, Wertheimer, and Rear Admiral Eli Soholitzky, representing the Navy, spoke about their enduring relationship with Rambam and expressed gratitude to the Awards Committee for the honor.

On Sunday, September 14, 2025, the delegation attended a presentation by Dr. Dana Baron Shahaf and Dr. Goded Shahaf, about their revolutionary Eyecon system. 2004 Nobel Laureate Prof. Aaron Ciechanover captivated attendees with his presentation offering profound insights into disease development.

Longtime visionary friends from the UK, Danny and Cathy Rosenkranz, participated in this year's Summit. Through their unwavering support, Prof. Ben Aharon spoke of the impact the Danny and Cathy Rosenkranz Oncology/Hematology ER in the Joseph Fishman Oncology Center is making. Danny and Cathy thanked everyone and shared that Rambam is integral to their visions for Israel and an inclusive society.

The group continued to the Eyal Ofer Heart Hospital, visiting the Teri and Barry Volpert Cardiac Imaging Center and the ultra-modern, Esthi and Micky Diamant Cardiac Rehabilitation Center, both of which are transforming cardiac care in the region.



► Benji and Dr. Dana Baron Shahaf

During a visit to the Helmsley Health Discovery Tower, guests were led through the impressive lobby and adjacent auditorium. Visitors were immersed in a futuristic environment, with 18 meters of digital monitors lining the walls. The state-of-the-art auditorium will serve as a hub for visionary thinkers to share ideas that shape tomorrow's healthcare solutions.

The day concluded with a tour of the Doron Feingold Delivery Rooms Unit, where guests learned about the Unit's advanced capabilities and patient-centered approach.

That evening, the Gala and Rambam Awards Ceremony took center stage. In his final Summit address, Prof. Halberthal welcomed honored guests, Meri Barer, president of American Friends of Rambam, Prof. Moshe Revach, former Rambam director, the Rambam Award recipients, VIPs, and other guests.

Prof. Halberthal spoke passionately about the "Rambam

culture"—the pioneers who dreamed, the partners who helped make it possible, and the enduring spirit of the Rambam family. He went on to wish Dr. Mekel's success in her new role as director general. Later in her speech Dr. Mekel thanked Prof. Halberthal and described Rambam as "home," where she grew up professionally, and emphasized her pride in continuing its legacy of excellence. During the award ceremony short videos highlighting the personal and professional achievements of the recipients were screened. To his complete surprise, Prof. Halberthal received a special award honoring his life's work and the footprint he leaves at Rambam.

The evening was emceed by local entertainer, Aki Avni. Performances by Israeli artists, Eden Golan, Elai Botner and the New Kids, Ofri Atia, the Israel navy trio, as well as a live ensemble, were a great success, leaving guests inspired and excited for the next year at Rambam.



► L-R Prof. Miki Halberthal, Dr. Michal Mekel, Prof. Rafi Beyar



► Yonatan Ron, one of the IDF soldiers injured during the war and treated at Rambam



► Eden Golan Performing



2025 RAMBAM AWARD



ACKNOWLEDGING OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Rambam Award is presented to outstanding individuals in recognition of their crowning accomplishments and significant contributions to science, healthcare, humanity, the State of Israel, and Rambam.

DR. GENARO LEVINSON

Born in Mexico, Dr. Genaro Levinson forged a deep and enduring connection with Haifa in the early 1970s, when he completed his medical residency at Rothschild Hospital—now Bnei Zion Medical Center. It was in Haifa that he met his wife, and together they built a family with three sons.



► L-R Prof. Miki Halberthal, Dr. Genaro Levinson

Though the couple dreamed of settling permanently in Israel, life led them back to Monterrey, Mexico. There, Dr. Levinson's vision for elevating healthcare took root. With a blend of medical expertise, social awareness, and entrepreneurial drive, he acquired a modest 30-bed facility that would eventually blossom into OCA Hospital, one of Mexico's most prestigious private tertiary-care institutions.

Dr. Levinson's heart never left Haifa. His commitment to advancing medicine echoes through his impactful involvement with Rambam and his unwavering commitment makes him a force of transformation—in Mexico, Israel, and at Rambam.

Dr. Levinson was unable to attend the 2025 Rambam Summit and award ceremony. During a recent visit to Mexico, Prof. Halberthal had the honor of presenting the Rambam Award to him in person.

MARCELO AND FERNANDA KALIM

Childhood friends Marcelo and Fernanda Kalim from Brazil, are visionaries in every sense. With Fernanda at his side, Marcelo's passion for finance and economics led him to pursue advanced studies at MIT in Boston. The couple raised their three children, nurturing strong Jewish values and teaching them the value of solid and enduring friendships.



► L-R Marcelo Kalim, Fernanda Kalim, Prof. Miki Halberthal

Marcelo has helped shape Brazil's financial and business landscape. Fernanda, a dentist, is driven by a deep commitment to philanthropy, healthcare, and social welfare – transforming countless lives, especially among disadvantaged youth. Yet, it is their unwavering devotion to community that truly sets them apart.

As Presidents of Friends of Rambam in Brazil, the Kalims have championed support for key strategic initiatives, and their pursuit of excellence has been transformative.

Fernanda and Marcelo Kalim were unable to attend the 2025 Rambam Summit and award ceremony in Haifa. During a recent visit to Brazil, Prof. Halberthal had the honor of presenting the Rambam Award to them in person.



► L-R Dr. Michal Mekel, Prof. Miki Halberthal, Prof. Rafi Beyar, Ariela Wertheimer, Prof. Aaron Ciechanover, Dr. Esty Golan

THE ISRAEL NAVY

Israel's Navy is an institution whose unwavering commitment to the State of Israel, national resilience, humanitarian action, and strategic partnership with Rambam exemplifies the highest ideals of service and shared purpose, especially in times of crisis.

Just meters from Rambam, the Haifa naval base is the heart of Israel's maritime defense. The Navy's proximity has fostered a powerful civil-military partnership, particularly evident, when Rambam activated its underground emergency hospital. During these emergency mobilizations, hundreds of dedicated and courageous Navy personnel worked alongside Rambam teams. With their support, patient transfers began within hours, underscoring the Navy's vital role in national preparedness and healthcare continuity.

PROFESSOR MICHAEL (MIKI) HALBERTHAL

The Rambam Awards Committee reached a unanimous decision to present an extraordinary Rambam Award to Prof. Halberthal honoring his exceptional leadership, contributions to global emergency preparedness, and commitment to advancing healthcare at Rambam—for Israel and far beyond.

Prof. Halberthal began his career after graduating from the Ruth and Bruce Rappaport Faculty of Medicine at the Technion. He specialized in pediatrics and pediatric critical care at Rambam, pursued advanced fellowships in pediatric cardiac critical care in London and Toronto and later established Rambam's Pediatric Cardiac Critical Care Unit. Professor Halberthal has held various professional leadership positions at Rambam and was appointed director general in 2019.

Together with the support of his wife Marlene, children Adi, Guy, Amit, Hadas, and their families, brother Rubi, late parents, Chana and Menachem, and others, Prof. Halberthal's tenure has been marked by visionary initiatives that have elevated Rambam's global standing.

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR AARON J. CIECHANOVER

Born in Haifa, Prof. Ciechanover's journey was defined by resilience, innovation, and a steadfast commitment to knowledge. After losing his parents at a young age, his brother Yoseph z"l—an Israel Prize recipient—played a pivotal role in his life, serving as both mentor and source of strength during his formative years. His wife Menucha and son Tzachi, share his deep love for Israel, the country he calls home and where he chose to further his scientific work.

In 1981, Prof. Ciechanover earned a pivotal doctorate in biological sciences at the Technion. Soon after, he embarked on the groundbreaking discovery of the ubiquitin system—a cellular mechanism that revolutionized biology, continues to inspire research, and has saved countless lives. This pioneering work laid the foundation for the development of modern cancer therapies and earned him and his colleagues the 2004 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

His life and work exemplify the power of persistence, the importance of mentorship, and the endless pursuit of knowledge.

ARIELA WERTHEIMER

In recognition of her remarkable dedication to advancing healthcare—together with her late husband, Eitan—Ariela Wertheimer's visionary leadership, compassion, and commitment have empowered and inspired individuals from all walks of life.

Ariela began her professional journey as an X-ray technician in the IDF, receiving her training at Rambam. She later pursued studies in art, business, and management at esteemed institutions around the world.

Her business acumen, management expertise, and philanthropic spirit know no borders. She has empowered and transformed the lives of Israel's diverse communities. For more than a decade, Ariela volunteered at Rambam, demonstrating a profound sense of humanity and humility. Together with Eitan, Ariela was a driving force behind the hospital's vision for the future, which still serves as Rambam's master development plan, revolutionizing healthcare in the region for generations to come.



ADVANCING NEUROSCIENCES IN A GROUNDBREAKING INSTITUTE



For centuries, the human brain remained uncharted territory and was inadequately understood. Now science is beginning to decode its mysteries via a multidisciplinary approach that bridges research, clinical expertise, and technological innovation.

As life expectancy continues to rise, so too does the prevalence of brain-related diseases—making the pursuit of innovative technologies for brain health more critical than ever. The future holds extraordinary promise, and Rambam is ready to lead the way.

Fueled by a commitment to research and innovation, Rambam is proud to

unveil a bold initiative to transform the landscape of neuroscience in Israel and further elevate the hospital's standing. At the heart of this vision lies the creation of a new, dedicated, cutting-edge Neuroscience Institute that will be an epicenter for research, where experts will forge a model of innovation and global collaboration. Clinician-scientists will unravel the intricacies of the brain, pioneer, and implement transformative therapies.

Spanning 35,000 square meters (approximately 376,000 square feet), the Institute will feature two buildings housing a comprehensive range of facilities powered by pioneering

technologies and dedicated clinics and units.

Driven by advances in science, clinical expertise, and a culture of creativity and innovation, solutions will be explored, tested, and implemented.

Prof. David Yarnitzky, Head of the Division of Neurology, notes major progress in treating Alzheimer's: "These breakthroughs alleviate symptoms and alter the progression of the disease by targeting its core mechanisms."

Scientists will continue to explore the integration of drug therapies, like cannabis, for complex and unresolved pain, psychedelic, as well as other powerful drugs to unlock new



pathways to memory processing and treating depression.

Collaborating with leading pharmaceutical companies, the Institute will feature a large area for clinical trials to meet the growing demand for new therapies. "Just as aspirin once redefined how we treat pain and other symptoms, these new therapies will have the potential to revolutionize the treatment of neurological conditions," says Dr. Ofer Shamgar, director of the Psychiatric Outpatient Clinic in the Division of Psychiatry.

Mental health is a central pillar of research and innovation where the convergence of psychiatry, neurology, and neurosurgery is delivering unexpected breakthroughs. Treating mental health issues can be compounded by other conditions—a specialized ward for the involuntary hospitalization of patients will address this gap in care.

The horizon is bursting with possibilities. Where diagnosis once meant limited treatment options, today's advances are changing lives. Modern digital technologies, including AI and machine learning, offer new insights and incorporating them into therapeutic interventions and the management of neurological conditions has significant benefits.

Patients are recovering lost functions, and breakthrough therapies are turning possibility into practice. From gene and stem cell therapies to microbiome-based interventions, this shift is driving a bold, multidisciplinary approach to heal even the most complex brain conditions.

"Brain medicine is undergoing a fundamental shift—we're seeing people recover from severe disabilities and

regain function," says Prof. Halberthal. "Solutions once unimaginable are now within reach. We're empowering our scientists to improve care, and unlock healing for chronic and life-threatening conditions."

The Neuroscience Institute at Rambam will be a strategic roadmap for unlocking the mysteries of the brain, transforming treatment, and offering hope where none previously existed. •



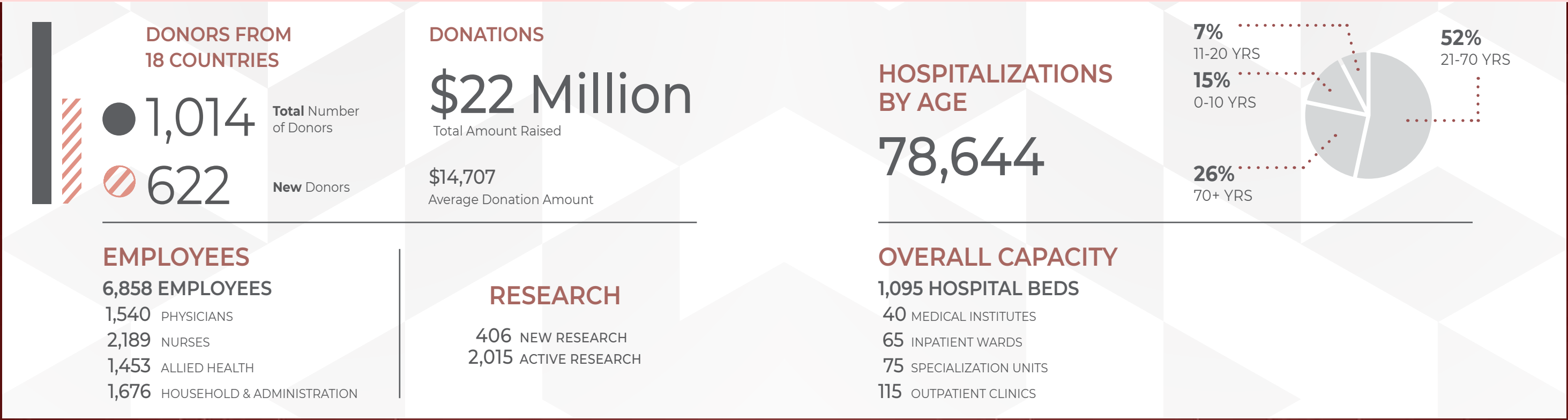
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES



PATIENT CARE

YEAR	2023	2024
ANNUAL ADMISSIONS	78,649	78,644
TOTAL PATIENT DAYS	343,578	343,341
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS	157,752	162,375
OUTPATIENT VISITS	725,542	740,069
TOTAL PATIENTS TREATED	285,039	290,285
IMAGING PROCEDURES	328,087	331,725
LABORATORY EXAMS	14,143,011	14,549,109
SURGICAL PROCEDURES	63,194	65,429
DELIVERIES	4,246	4,352
AVERAGE OCUPANCY	86%	80%

IN NUMBERS



PROFESSOR IRIT BEN-AHARON, MD, PhD

Director, Joseph Fishman Oncology Center
Principal Investigator, Ben-Aharon Laboratory, Leir Foundation Clinical Research Institute
Head, Laboratory of Toxicity Mechanisms of Anti-Cancer Therapies
Rappaport Faculty of Medicine, Technion
Editor-in-Chief, ESMO Gastrointestinal Oncology

Chemotherapy during pregnancy causes significant anxiety for expectant mothers. While current studies have not identified short-term adverse effects on newborns, there is lack of data regarding the potential long-term impact of in utero exposure as children grow older.

Prof. Irit Ben-Aharon, a world-renowned oncology expert, received a 1.1-million-shekel research grant from the Israel Science Foundation to spearhead a groundbreaking study* titled: "A Multidisciplinary Approach to Examining the Short- and

Long-Term Effects of In Utero Exposure to Chemotherapy on Offspring."

"The incidence of cancer in young adults is rising, and more women are being diagnosed during their reproductive years," explains Ben-Aharon. "At the same time, maternal age is shifting upward, with many women now choosing to give birth in their 30s and 40s. Although certain types of chemotherapy are considered safe during pregnancy, available clinical data is limited to observational studies in children. Moreover, there is a lack of data on potential long-term effects, which could be crucial for the early detection of future morbidities."

Although clear guidelines exist for monitoring the health of childhood cancer survivors, there is a paucity of data and no evidence-based recommendations for risk reduction of obstetrical and neonatal complications in pregnant patients diagnosed with cancer that are treated with chemotherapy, nor for a tailored long-term medical follow-up for the in-utero exposed.

Using laboratory mice, Prof. Ben-Aharon's research addresses this gap by exploring how chemotherapy during pregnancy may affect the offspring's heart and reproductive organs in adulthood.

Due to their relatively short lifespan, laboratory mice offer a valuable model for studying the effects of chemotherapy on the offspring at an age corresponding to 30–40 years in humans.

Ultimately, Prof. Ben-Aharon's research seeks to answer profound questions: How does chemotherapy during pregnancy shape a child's development and long-term health? What can we predict decades into the future and is there a way to mitigate or even reverse its effects? Current results indicate a latent effect observed during adulthood, and ongoing research aims to characterize the underlying mechanism.

**The epidemiological component of the study will be carried out at Clalit Health Services, in collaboration with Dr. Samah Hayek of Tel Aviv University.*



PROFESSOR LIOR GEPSTEIN, MD, PhD

Director, Department of Cardiology and the Division of Research,
Professor of Physiology and Medicine (Cardiology)
Rappaport Faculty of Medicine, Technion

Prof. Gepstein and his colleagues at Rambam and the Technion are using 3D-bioprinted cardiac tissue to advance treatments for heart disease, especially atrial arrhythmia, and explore other possibilities.

They are making remarkable progress. The initial stage of their research began with single-cell, heart tissue cultures developed in a petri dish. This was followed by the printing of simple, two-dimensional samples—each one centimeter wide and micron-thin—composed of nearly one million cells. These engineered tissues allowed them to map how electricity travels through the heart's pathways, induce arrhythmias, and study their progression, while accounting for the influence of both

healthy and damaged, or scarred tissue.

Now, the scientists are taking it one step further; they are printing a complex anatomical and pathologically relevant model using 3D-bioprinting technology.

"We combined human induced pluripotent stem cells with other agents and tools to engineer clinically-relevant atrial chambers for studying arrhythmia," explains Prof. Gepstein. "Our research shows that the cells within the 3D-bioprinted tissue survived and beat spontaneously and synchronously."

The next frontier is even more ambitious: the decellularization of an animal heart—first that of a laboratory rat and later a pig. Both animal heart structures closely resemble a

human one—remove the tissue while preserving the underlying structural framework. This scaffold is then recellularized with the patient's own cells, creating a personalized model for testing.

"With this information we'll be able to test the latest and most advanced drug therapies on a "heart" modelled on the patient's own, measure its electrical activity, evaluate the muscle's tensile strength, and determine and tailor the most effective therapy for that specific patient," adds Gepstein.

Ultimately, Prof. Gepstein hopes to print a fully humanized, structurally accurate, healthy heart for transplant—bioengineered to replace their diseased heart with a healthy one.



NURSES AT THE HEART OF THE BATTLE – RAMBAM'S ENDURING MISSION



► Working together in the Underground Hospital

When war broke out on October 7, 2023, Rambam once again demonstrated its role as a national strategic asset. Our teams treated the wounded, provided continuous emergency care, and led a coordinated national response in a moment of greatest need.

When dozens of nurses were called to military service, Rambam's nursing leadership, under direction of Gila Hyams, acted quickly to fill the gap. More than 150 volunteers, including retired nurses, orderlies, medical and nursing students, paramedics, and community members stepped forward. All underwent an accelerated intake process, received vaccinations, professional guidance, and specialized training—from practical instruction such as drawing blood and inserting IVs, to simulations for transferring complex patients, and even resilience workshops to strengthen mental fortitude. Their contribution was felt in every corner of the hospital from accompanying the wounded, assisting in operating rooms, supporting daily nursing work, and offering help to both staff and patients. Their presence not only eased the workload, but also infused the hospital with a spirit of volunteerism, care, and solidarity.

During Operation Rising Lion, Rambam once again moved critical services underground while continuing to serve patients in fortified above-ground departments. Nurses, trauma coordinators, clinical nurse specialists, and emergency teams stood at the forefront, receiving casualties, performing triage, addressing psychological trauma, and delivering life-saving interventions with professionalism, humanity, and grace.

At every stage, Rambam's nurses have been the backbone of care. They worked under immense pressure, coordinated seamlessly with colleagues from other hospitals that relocated to Rambam, as well as



► Nurse in the ICU in the Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital

volunteers, to embody a rare balance of strength and compassion. Even in the heart of battle, Rambam put patients first, proving once again that courage, commitment, and humanity are the foundation of healing.



► Simulation

INTEGRATING SMART TECHNOLOGIES



► Eli Ben Shlush



► Roei Avraham



► Shai Tzadok

PATIENT JOURNEY

Using a sophisticated decision-tree structure guided by a chatbot, appointments are scheduled automatically, and patients can easily track or reschedule them as needed.

Using advanced software, 62 tailored scripts yield valuable insights into form submission, appointment routing, appointment management, and follow-up.

During their hospital visit, the physician enters information for follow-up visits and once appointment details are approved by the patient, they are discharged. Thereafter the digital appointment setting service enables patients to manage their appointments.

"This platform streamlines and improves the process, reduces the administrative burden, increases patient confidence, and ensures timely treatment. So far, the platform is being used in five hospital departments with more expected in the near future," says Eli Ben Shush, Administrative Deputy Director, Organization Methodologies and Projects.

Recently the Patient Journey program won 2nd place in the Service and Customer Experience contest of the Israeli Management Center.

DIGITAL APPOINTMENT SETTING

Digital appointment setting is revolutionizing the patient experience. Traditionally, patients were responsible for coordinating their own follow-up appointments. Today, a generative AI-powered platform streamlines this journey.

The platform scans and collates medical documents, detects anomalies, and transfers data to the appropriate departmental database. Patient feedback plays a vital role in enhancing hospital standards. After receiving hospital care, patients are invited to complete a satisfaction questionnaire to identify bottlenecks during their stay.

"In addition, outreach calls are conducted to gain a deeper understanding of patient experiences," says Roei Avraham, director of Ambulatory Services. "Approximately 90% of respondents report being 'very' or 'highly' satisfied with the service."

SMART INVENTORY MANAGEMENT: A NEW ERA AT RAMBAM

Managing the full spectrum of

medical supplies is critical to the seamless operation of any hospital. At Rambam, we are entering a new era of inventory management by leveraging advanced technology to meet the demands of modern medicine.

Today, an intelligent network automatically tracks supplies, generates reports, and triggers purchase orders as needed.

At the heart of this transformation are smart storage cabinets, weight-based monitoring, and visual recognition technologies that streamline the entire process. In operating rooms, a "Snap and Go" barcode system ensures supplies are logged instantly and accurately into patient records. Meanwhile, weight sensors beneath storage shelves track stock levels in real time and alert logistics staff for restock.

Together, these innovations increase efficiency, reduce waste, minimize manual work, and guarantee continuous, optimal availability of medical supplies.

"Smart inventory management is more than a technological upgrade," says Shay Tsadok, Director, Division of Medical Technology, Purchasing and Logistics. "It's a strategic leap forward that reflects Rambam's commitment to efficiency and the highest standards of patient care."



DEAR FRIENDS,

It is a profound honor to write to you as I am set to begin my tenure as Director General of Rambam Health Care Campus. To assume leadership of an institution with such history, depth, and impact is both humbling and inspiring. For the past 87 years, Rambam has established itself as a leading medical center in Israel, a place where excellence in medicine and compassionate care come together to serve our community and advance the future of health.

But Rambam is far more than a hospital. It is a home, a place where values, knowledge, and human dedication come together in service of life and healing. Rambam is inseparably tied to the society we serve, and we are proud that Rambam stands as a beacon of tolerance and collaboration among people of diverse communities, faiths, and backgrounds.

When I look at the enormous challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, I am truly excited to take the lead, pushing the hospital further and shaping its future. Together with our extraordinary staff, partners, and close friends all over the world, we will continue to strengthen Rambam as a world-class center of clinical excellence, research, and innovation. It is my goal that Rambam will not only meet the growing needs of our region but will also set new standards for the future of patient care in Israel and around the world.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to Professor Halberthal. For the past six years, Miki has led Rambam with wisdom, compassion, and unwavering commitment. The Rambam we see today is a testament to his leadership. It is a privilege to follow in his footsteps, and I promise to safeguard and strengthen the milestones he has set.

We join the entire nation in welcoming the hostages home and praying for their healing in body and spirit. We call for the release of every hostage that still remains in Gaza. May this moment bring us closer to a future of safety, compassion, and lasting peace for all who call this land home.

I thank you for your trust. Together, we will carry Rambam to new horizons—strong, proud, and united.

With gratitude,

Dr. Michal Mekel
Deputy Director
Incoming Director General
Rambam Health Care Campus

ELLA GALIL: A LIFE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP, PARTNERSHIP, AND PURPOSE

A true trailblazer in business and education, Ella Galil has spent her life building opportunities for others and turning her vision of progress and compassion into lasting impact.

ROOTED IN HAIFA

Ella was born in Haifa in 1936. Leadership came naturally as she guided young campers in Scouts, took charge in the Gadna youth corps, and embraced responsibility in her army service. Each of these experiences filled her with a profound sense of duty.

After her IDF service, Ella joined the Department of Customs and Excise where she played a key role in establishing the first Custom office in Eilat harbor, for future trade opportunities between Israel and Southern and Eastern countries. For a young woman, it was a striking lesson in how institutions can shape a nation's future.

A decade later she changed paths, and in 1966, she joined Elron, which is widely regarded as Israel's first high-tech venture company. At the time, no one could have imagined that this modest startup would help ignite a technological revolution. Nor could Ella have imagined that it would lead her to Uzia Galil, the man who became her



► Ella and Uzia Galil

husband and her partner for 53 years in every sense.

BUILDING TOGETHER

Ella and Uzia married in 1969. Their marriage was built on love, mutual respect, and shared purpose. Uzia, as one of Israel's most visionary entrepreneurs and father of the Israeli hi-tech industry, was the face of innovation. Ella, with her steady hand and clear eye, ensured those visions could be realized.

At Elron, as the first Corporate Secretary, she participated in all board of directors meetings, helped in the process of establishing subsidiaries, and guided the process of taking companies like Elscint and Elron public in the United States. Ella became, the connective tissue that held a growing enterprise together. She understood that behind every breakthrough there must be structure, governance, and communication.

GIVING BACK

After 30 years at Elron, Ella surprised many by stepping away, redirecting her energy to the future she believed in most: young people.

In 1998 she founded Young Entrepreneurs Israel, the local chapter of "Junior Achievement Worldwide" and served as chairperson of the board. Her aim was to give children and teenagers the thrill of creativity, the discipline of business, and the courage of entrepreneurship. For 25 years she led the organization, building programs across schools nationwide. Later, she was named Honorary President for Life. In 2005, Ella was honored with the Junior Achievement's Gold Leadership Award in St. Louis, USA.

Ella's focus on community did not end there. In 2001, together with Uzia



► Ella and her son Doron

and Elron, they co-founded the Galil Center for Telemedicine and Medical Informatics at the Technion's Faculty of Medicine. It was a natural extension of her belief that technology must serve humanity.

At Rambam, Ella Galil's presence is felt across the campus, from the Ella and Uzia Galil Auditorium in the Joseph Fishman Oncology Center to the Uzia Galil Innovation Center. She has also supported a wide range of departments, including internal medicine, urology, and cardiology, as well as the FUEH.

Her contributions to Rambam's physician fellowship program have advanced the education and professional growth of many physicians. Most recently, Ella made a significant donation toward establishing the new Fortified Critical Care Medicine Division.

Ella takes great pride in her family, including her son Doron Lavy, his wife Shira, and her beloved grandson Omer. Generosity, has always been a shared commitment for Ella and Doron. Together, they donated a conference

room in the Department of Cardiac Intensive Care, reflecting their deep dedication to strengthening and supporting the medical teams who save lives every day.

When asked to reflect on her life, Ella speaks of partnerships with her husband Uzia, with young people, and with the institutions she has worked with for decades. Her story of opportunities turned into platforms for others, always with an eye on the future and a heart anchored in community.

To the Galils, philanthropy was never simply about money. It was about relationships, mentorship, and confidence-building.

CONTINUING THE LEGACY AND CREATING POSSIBILITY

Today, Ella remains an active supporter of the Technion, Young Entrepreneurs Israel, Technoda, ELEM, and Rambam. Her giving at Rambam reflects the same values that have guided her entire life: compassion, innovation, and the conviction that strong institutions create stronger futures.

Gold Leadership Award Recipients Recognized in St. Louis



The Gold Leadership Award recognizes Junior Achievement volunteers who have consistently gone above and beyond to help JA reach young people. This year,

JA honored 15 volunteers at the Global Business Hall of Fame Chairman's Luncheon in St. Louis.

Seated (L-R): Daniel G. Crockett, president & CEO, Franklin American Mortgage Co.; Ian Roland, Retired CEO, Lincoln Financial Corp.; Ella Galil, chairperson, Young Entrepreneurs - Israel; Gus Sterros, chairman of the board, PELAM Investments, Inc.; Jack Berbarian, executive VP, Jons Marketplace. Standing (L-R): David S. Chernow, president & CEO, JA Worldwide; Samuel A. DiPiazza, CEO, PricewaterhouseCoopers, co-chairman of the board, JA Worldwide; David M. McClanahan, president & CEO, CenterPoint Energy, Inc.; M. Bradley Barrow, vice chairman & CFO, Hardin Construction Co., LLC; Scott H. Filstrup, president, The Consultants, Ltd.; Louis J. Fusz Jr., president, Lou Fusz Automotive Network; Alejandro Luis Boffari, regional executive, GE South America Area Operations - GE Int.; Juan Cotron, president, Consultores Internacionales C.L.B., co-chairman of the board, JA Worldwide. Not pictured: Jorge Luis Diaz Iglesias, VP marketing - Latin America, Proctor and Gamble; Carey J. St. VP - health division, The Principal Financial Group; Prof. Ken O'Neill, Univ. of Ulster at Jordanstown; John G. Stumpf, group executive VP, Wells Fargo & Co.; Trevor Toolan, chairman, Pfla UK.

DEAR FRIENDS,

The past two years have been profoundly challenging, both nationally and personally. Rambam Health Care Campus has been operating under emergency conditions, activating our fortified underground hospital while continuing to provide essential routine services to the people of Northern Israel.

The Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital (FUEH) was built in the aftermath of the 2006 Lebanon War. Rambam's leadership determined that we would never again be forced to care for patients under enemy fire. This vision became a reality, and the FUEH serves as a critical national resource, as seen during the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent conflict. The FUEH protected us from Hezbollah rockets and Iranian ballistic missiles; it has safeguarded both patients and staff, fulfilling its mission beyond expectations.

Despite these trying times, we strengthened our ties with leading global academic institutions, including Stanford Medicine and others. This collaboration, which began before the pandemic, has only deepened, even in the face of international pressure for academic boycotts. We are now furthering our collaboration in the fields of cardiology, oncology, emergency preparedness data, AI and more.

During the Swords of Iron War, we were fortunate and deeply grateful to receive support from around the world including Jewish Federations of North America, foundations, and many private donors. All recognized Rambam as a vital strategic asset for the State of Israel.

We've also expanded our outreach in Latin America, particularly in Brazil, Mexico, Chile, and Uruguay. During several visits, we were warmly welcomed and received support from the Jewish communities and formed a strong partnership with Albert Einstein Israelita Hospital in Brazil.

Looking ahead, Rambam is focused on several major projects:

- Completion of The Azrieli Foundation Pediatric Rehabilitation Center.
- Completion of the 7th and 8th floors of the Eyal Ofer Heart Hospital, which will house the Heart Failure Center and The Palti and Perlhagen Centre for Research and Innovation in Cardiovascular Medicine.
- Advancing construction in Helmsley Health Discovery Tower – including the Leir Foundation Clinical Research Institute, the Andrea and Lawrence Wolfe Center for Translational Medicine and Engineering as well as the Eye Institute, The School for Graduate Dentistry, Gastroenterology Dept. and Pulmonary Institute.

- Establishment of a Fortified Critical Care Medicine Division.

We've also begun planning our future North Campus, which will house three buildings focused on brain health and mother and child care.

With your continued support, I am optimistic as always, that we will keep moving forward—stronger than ever for the people of Israel.

Warm regards,



Prof. Rafi Beyar

President International Friends Organizations



RAMBAM IS BUILDING BRIDGES TO LATIN AMERICA

Prof. Halberthal, Prof. Beyar, and Monica Davidovich—director of Rambam's Latin America Desk—together with Rambam's Friends Associations, are cementing ties with the Jewish communities, hospitals, medical professionals, and influential officials in North and South America. The delegation has traveled to the Americas on multiple occasions, and Nobel Laureate Prof. Aaron Ciechanover has also accompanied them.

to deepen the connection with South Florida's Jewish Latin American community. Prof. Beyar kept some 80 guests riveted as he discussed Rambam's role in healthcare and in Northern Israel.

aspirations, and potential career paths. Educating today's youth about the future of healthcare is essential to inspiring the next generation of medical innovators, researchers, and caregivers. Rambam reciprocated the Academy's hospitality when a school delegation visited the campus in September 2025.



► Zalda Zarco, Prof. Beyar, our hosts, Robert Zarco and his wife, and the AFORAM Team

NEW YORK & MIAMI – SEPTEMBER 2024

- In New York, a meeting with Mrs. Chella Safra, Treasurer of the World Jewish Congress, offered insights into topics of mutual interest and included an invitation to visit Rambam.



► Mrs. Chella Safra, Prof. Rafi Beyar, Monica Davidovich

- In Miami, businessman Robert Zarco hosted a spectacular event at his home. Organized by Zalda Zarco, it provided a meaningful opportunity

- Dr. Victor Strassman, from the Cleveland Clinic, and his wife Paula, President and Founder of PGS Medical Statistics, hosted an elegant dinner with VIPs, including Israel's Consul General in Miami, Mr. Maor Elbaz-Starinsky.



► Prof. Beyar, Victor Strassman, Paula Strassman, Maor Elbaz Starinsky

- A visit to the Jewish Leadership Academy in Miami—a Jewish day school dedicated to cultivating tomorrow's leaders—provided a meaningful opportunity to gain insight into Jewish youth, their academic

BRAZIL

Three separate visits to Brazil brought together friends, new partners, and leading figures in the Jewish community, healthcare, and philanthropy.

November 2024

- While in São Paulo, Marcelo and Fernanda Kalim, Rambam Award recipients, hosted a gala that introduced guests to the new state-of-the-art Fortified Critical Care Medicine Division. Following a presentation by Dr. Michal Mekel, the evening took an emotional turn when Lior Levi (29), an IDF veteran receiving PTSD treatment at Rambam since 2019, shared his personal story. Levi was accompanied by his Rambam therapist and counselor, Oren Ramot.



► Dr. Mekel, Fernanda and Marcelo Kalim, Monica Davidovich

• At a meeting at her home, Alessandra Safra welcomed Dr. Mekel, Levi, and Ramot, and they discussed and compared Rambam's PTSD program with that of a local one.



► The delegation at Alessandra Safra's residence

• Visits to the prestigious Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein, Colegio Renascença, and meetings with cherished supporters strengthened ties with the community. After that, friends Sara and Zeev Horovitz hosted the delegation at their estate at Fazenda Boa Vista.



► Prof. Halberthal, Zeev Horovitz, Prof. Beyar, Mario Fleck, Sara Horovitz

May 2025

• Prof. Halberthal, Prof. Beyar, and Mooly Eden, former President of Intel, delivered a presentation to 450 Brazilian physicians—both in person and online—at an event organized by Dr. Claudio Lottenberg, President of the Hospital Council, and Dr. Miguel Cendoroglo, Medical Director and Hospital Superintendent.

• Rambam friends Bella, Jacques, Alberto, and Maurizio Picciotto were delighted to receive updates on the

impact of their generosity on women's health in Northern Israel.



► With our dear friends, Maurizio and Alberto Picciotto

• Fernanda and Marcelo Kalim hosted another event that served to deepen strategic partnerships. Mooly Eden was the key speaker.



► Prof. Beyar, Marcelo Kalim, Fernanda Kalim, Monica Davidovich, Mooly Eden, and Prof. Halberthal

• The delegation met with Rambam collaborators Fernanda Kalim and her friend, Miriam Vasserman, Vice President of São Paulo Jewish Federation and discussed avenues of cooperation through Kalim's genetic disease testing initiative within the Jewish community.

• At another meeting over dinner with the Horovitz family – Sara and Zeev, and their son, Daniel – they were captivated by Rambam and the projects presented to them.

• A meeting with the Board of the Brazil-Israel Medical Association was a step towards strengthening our partnership and advancing shared goals.

• Abrão Lowenthal advocates for many Jewish-related causes, and Rambam is among them. As a valued member of the Board of Brazilian Friends of Rambam, Lowenthal plays a

key role in strengthening ties between Rambam and Brazil. He and his wife, Sabina, attended the 2023 Rambam Summit, further deepening their commitment to Rambam.



► The delegation with Abrão and Sabina Lowenthal

• Meetings with Luis Shtulberger, Jochanan and Carmela Dekel, and Mrs. Livia Bleier were very productive. A meeting with real estate magnate and philanthropist, Elie Horn, revealed his interest in Parkinson's disease, and he was fascinated by the transformational interventions and treatments performed at Rambam.

• Morris Dayan, Executive Director at Banco Daycoval and supporter of The Dayan Family Hearing and Speech Institute, hopes to visit Rambam soon and learn more about upcoming projects.

August 2025

• Fernanda and Marcelo Kalim, were unable to participate in the Summit, so while in *São Paulo*, Prof. Halberthal presented the 2025 Rambam Award to them. It was an emotional evening and the Kalims were visibly moved to receive such recognition.

• The trip included a stop in Rio de Janeiro, where the delegation had meetings with influential Jewish members of the medical fraternity, hospitals, and academic institutions.

SANTIAGO, CHILE

• In December 2024, while in Santiago with Prof. Ciechanover, the delegation attended a dinner at the residence of the Israeli Ambassador to Chile, Mr. Gil Artzyeli, and his wife Viviana.

• The delegation participated in strategic meetings to strengthen collaborations with Universidades de Chile and del Desarrollo and Clínica Alemana.



► The delegation with the board of Clínica Alemana

PUNTA DEL ESTE, URUGUAY

• In December 2024, Prof. Halberthal, Prof. Ciechanover, and Monica Davidovich attended multiple events in the seaside town of Punta del Este organized by Mr. Armando Litvan, a friend of Prof. Ciechanover. One of the events, hosted by Rolando Rosenbaum, brought together holidaymakers, friends and supporters from Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay and featured a Hanukkah candle lighting.



► The delegation hosted by the Litvan's in Punta del Este

• In Uruguay at the time, Brazilian entrepreneur and philanthropist Paola De Picciotto, widely recognized for her contributions to Jewish heritage projects, hosted a luncheon for 25 of her friends who were also vacationing there.



► Our host in Punta del Este, Paola de Picciotto with Prof. Ciechanover

MARCH 2025 – MEXICO

• A meeting with Mrs. Sally Serur, the incumbent president of the Mexican Friends of Rambam, a passionate Zionist and business executive, affirmed their enthusiasm, and we look forward to an exciting future.



► With the President of the Mexican Friends of Rambam Mrs. Sally Serur

• A meeting in Mexico City with Elias Sacal, businessman, community leader, and close friend of Rambam's visionary partner Eyal Ofer was a meaningful exchange of promising ideas.

• Elias Achar, President of the Central Committee of the Jewish Communities in Mexico, introduced the delegation to the Mexico-Israel Medical Association. The delegation gained insights into the spirit that defines Jewish life in Mexico.

• A visit to Mt. Sinai School included a meeting with President Pepe Ambe and the delegation were impressed by the students' strong sense of Jewish identity.

• The delegation also met with Israel's Ambassador in Mexico, Einat Kranz Neiger, who spoke of the community's ties to Israel and introduced them to community leaders.

• While in Monterrey, Prof. Halberthal presented the 2025 Rambam Award to our committed supporter, Dr. Genaro Levinson, in honor of his deep connection to Rambam. In an emotional moment, surrounded by family and close friends, Dr. Levinson gracefully accepted the award.



► Prof. Miki Halberthal and Dr. Genaro Levinson

MAY 2025 – COSTA RICA

During a three-day mission to Costa Rica, the delegation participated in multiple meetings and a Yom HaAtzmaut celebration:

• They met with Israel's Ambassador, Michal Gur-Arye, and senior government and diplomatic officials to discuss bilateral cooperation.



► Prof. Halberthal, Ambassador Michal Gur Aryeh, Dr. Carlos Jimenez Herrera, Amir Rockman

• They also met with Monica Nagel, VP of Costa Rica's Jewish community and executive at Grupo Montecristo. She introduced them to Dr. Andrés Wiernick from Hospital Metropolitano, a private hospital seeking collaboration with Rambam—both intend to visit Rambam soon.

• They engaged in discussions with entrepreneurs Arieh and Eyal Richter, who have a strong connection to Israel.

• At UNIBE University, President Emma Grace Hernández expressed interest in clinical training exchanges for medical students.

• While at the National Children's Hospital, Dr. Marcos Vargas, Head of Trauma invited Rambam to lead a trauma and mass casualty course for 100 healthcare workers, to be sponsored by the Genesis Prize Foundation and the Israeli Embassy.

DEAR FRIENDS,

This past year, Rambam faced immense challenges. Our strategic plan was tested by Operation Rising Lion and Hezbollah missile attacks, but we pushed on. Despite uncertainty, the unwavering support of our friends, bold leadership, and the tireless dedication of our staff ensured we acted with compassion and professionalism, never losing sight of our vision.

Our friends are our family, and we celebrate you. We welcomed many VIPs, and delegations from abroad. Meaningful visits to North, Central, and South America deepened our bonds with Jewish communities and the medical profession—all aimed at strengthening our collaboration and support for Rambam around the world.

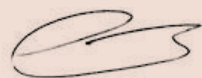
Most departments have already relocated to the Eyal Ofer Heart Hospital and the final two floors of the hospital, are close to completion. We've achieved major milestones in the Helmsley Health Discovery Tower, expanded hospital services, acquired critical equipment, and opened several new facilities including the Younes and Soraya Mental Health and Wellness Clinic, the Doron Feingold Delivery Rooms Unit, the Esthi and Micky Diamant Cardiac Rehabilitation Center, the Teri and Barry Volpert Family Cardiac Imaging Center, the Picciotto Adolfo & Bella Maternity Department, the Picciotto Jacques & Rita Maternity Department and the Dayan Family Hearing and Speech Institute.

Looking ahead, thanks to visionary partnerships, we are focusing on transformative projects: further developing the Helmsley Health Discovery Tower, establishing the Fortified Critical Care Medicine Division, completing the Azrieli Foundation Pediatric Rehabilitation Center, and defining a timeline for the Neuroscience Institute. The future holds endless possibilities.

I would like to wish Prof. Halberthal all the very best—thank you for your leadership and vision. I would also like to wish Dr. Michal Mekel every success in her new role as director general of this fine hospital.

Our hearts are with the hostages who have been reunited with their families, and we wait for the return of every single hostage that remains in Gaza. Their strength reminds us of the resilience of the human spirit.

With warm regards,



Dr. Esty Golan

Managing Director of International Relations
And Chief of Strategic Development



RAMBAM INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Suzy and Joe Edelman visited Rambam during the Swords of Iron War, reaffirming their deep commitment to the hospital. They were hosted by Prof. Halberthal, Prof. Beyar, and Dr. Golan. They toured key facilities, including The Danny and Cathy Rosenkranz Oncology/Hematology ER, Eyal Ofer Heart Hospital, Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital, and the FUEH. Their philanthropic legacy is proudly displayed on the Maimonides Leadership Circle wall and in the FUEH exhibition.



► L-R: Dr. Esty Golan, Prof. Rafi Beyar, Suzy Edelman, Joe Edelman and Prof. Miki Halberthal

led by President Shana B. Marer-Bismuth, representatives from the French humanitarian organization, Association Paul Marer visited Rambam, named in memory of Bismuth's late father, Paul Marer. Their generous donation of 90 hospital beds significantly enhances patient care. The delegation met with Dr. Golan, Prof. Daniella Magen, director of the Pediatric Division at the Children's Hospital, Dr. Shifra Ash, director of the Joan & Sanford Weill Division of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplantation, and Prof. Myriam Ben-Arush, former director of the Pediatric Division. After viewing plaques installed honoring Paul Marer z"l, they received a certificate of appreciation, toured the Children's Hospital, and the FUEH.



► Representatives from the French humanitarian organization, Association Paul Marer with Rambam staff

In June and again in March 2025, representatives from the Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF) visited Rambam, where they received an in-depth overview of the hospital's critical role in treating wounded IDF soldiers. The delegations were welcomed by Prof. Beyar, Dr. Avi Weissman, deputy director, Dr. Golan, and Inbar Shahaf, director, Unit of Resource Development and Donor Relations. The delegations toured the FUEH, where they learned of the involvement of IDF soldiers in twice activating the facility since October 7. Accompanied by Dr. Dana Vitner, director of the High-Risk Pregnancy Clinic, one of the delegations toured the ultra-modern Doron Feingold Delivery Rooms Unit.



► FIDF delegation with Rambam staff

July 2024 – Cris Monteiro, a Brazilian politician and city councilor in São Paulo was welcomed at Rambam. Deeply impressed by Rambam's cutting-edge facilities, she praised the many elements that make the hospital an internationally acclaimed healthcare center. She was received by Dr. Michal Mekel.



► Mrs. Cris Monteiro in the underground hospital



Bitita Nuhavandi-Morovati, who had been treated at Rambam decades ago for a rare pediatric cancer, chose to honor her late husband, David, by generously contributing towards the eight-bed David Avitan Morovati Examination Area in the Danny & Cathy Rosenkranz Oncology/Hematology ER. She visited Rambam with her mother, shared memories of David, recalled her hospitalization, and shared her gratitude to honor David in such a meaningful way at the hospital that saved her life.



► Bitita Nuhavandi and her mother near the plaque commemorating Bitita's husband David



Pastor David Zadok, leader of the Grace & Truth Christian Congregation, has, over the years, supported multiple initiatives, including Rambam's expanding PTSD program. Zadok and congregants from Holland, accompanied by Inbar Shahaf, met with Oren Ramot, a Rambam social worker who treats adults and teenagers coping with trauma, depression, OCD, and other conditions, who outlined the mental wellness resources available at the hospital. The group toured the FUEH.



► L-R: Ger Roukens, Lenard Prins, Inbar Shahaf, David Zadok, Gennady Sapozhnikov director, Department of Bio-medical Engineering and Gijs Willem Sloof



Rambam welcomed Rabbi Mendel Wolvovsky from the Joseph Weingarten Chabad Jewish Center in Sonoma County, CA, along with his sons. Rabbi Wolvovsky is a close friend of Sandy and Joan Weill, from the USA, who are valued Rambam friends. They met with Dr. Ash and Prof. Ben-Arush. After offering words of comfort to the patients in the Children's Hospital, the Wolvovskys toured the FUEH.



► Rabbi Mendel Wolvovsky with Dr. Shifra Ash, Prof. Ben-Arush and Dr. Esty Golan



With a social media following of some 14 million, Montana Tucker captured global attention at the 2024 Grammy Awards by wearing a dress emblazoned with a yellow ribbon in solidarity with the hostages. Her December visit to Israel included a visit to Rambam. Received by Prof. Halberthal, she also met a hospitalized patient, 11-year-old Tia Mari, who was injured in the October missile attack on Majdal Shams. Tucker also met Shlomi Tubi and Astar Moshe, survivors of the NOVA festival, who shared their story and are now the proud parents of Benaia.



► Montana Tucker (holding Benaia), with Shlomi Tubi and Astar Moshe



► Montana and Tia



A delegation, comprised of 16 legislators from Chicago was welcomed by Prof. Zaher Azzam, director of the Division of Internal Medicine. Both groups toured the FUEH and expressed their admiration for Rambam's strong commitment to inclusivity and multiculturalism.



► Chicago delegation with Prof. Zaher Azzam



Brazilian philanthropist and Israel advocate, Alessandra Safra, visited in December 2024 and met with Prof. Halberthal, Dr. Mekel, Dr. Ofer Shamgar, director of the Mental Health Psychiatry Division, Dr. Shifra Ash, director of the Joan & Sanford Weill Division of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplantation, and Monica Davidovich. Dr. Ash led her on a tour of the Division of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, where she highlighted the department's holistic approach to care.



► Dr. Michal Mekel, Prof. Halberthal, Mrs. Alessandra Safra, Mr. Mochico Moskovitz, Mr. Oded Lugassy and Dr. Esty Golan



A visit from Andrés D. Klein, director, Center for Genetics and Genomics, Institute of Science and Innovation in Medicine in Chile in February 2025, was a meaningful event. Klein met with Prof. Halberthal, Prof. Ciechanover, Dr. Roberto Amon Kabeli, senior physician, Psychiatry and Mental Health Division, Dr. Sharon Bratman Morag, a genetic counselor at Rambam's Genetics Institute, and Prof. Simone Engelender from the Technion's Bruce and Ruth Rappaport Faculty of Medicine. Klein presented a lecture titled "Genetic Modifiers for Personalized Therapeutics in LSDS and PD" at the Leir Foundation Clinical Research Institute (CRIR) and then toured the FUEH and Helmsley Health Discovery Tower.



Muriel Haim, President of the Fondation France-Israel, visited the campus on January 8. She was welcomed by Prof. Halberthal, Prof. Beyar, and Dr. Golan. Prof. Halberthal thanked her and expressed heartfelt appreciation for the foundation's support in purchasing a portable X-ray machine. This essential device enables critical imaging to be performed anywhere on campus—even at the bedside of immobile patients.



► L-R: Prof. Miki Halberthal, Muriel Haim, Dr. Esty Golan, and Inbar Shahaf



During a warm visit from Chile in March, Rambam hosted a delegation from the Pontifical Catholic University of Valparaíso. They met with Professors Halberthal and Gepstein, Dr. Shlomit Yehudai-Reshef, Director of Leir Foundation Clinical Research Institute (CRIR), Dr. Dana Vitner, Director of the High-Risk Pregnancy Clinic, and Roee Atlas, CEO of Rambam MedTech. They toured the FUEH and discussed Rambam's pioneering research. Their visit was a gesture of admiration for Rambam's commitment to values of inclusivity.



► Prof. Gepstein and the delegation from The Pontifical Catholic University of Valparaíso



Rambam was honored to host the Andi and Larry Wolfe GenX III Mission, led by Jeremy, son of Andi and Larry Wolfe. During the visit, participants learned about Rambam's partnership with the Technion and plans for the future Andrea and Lawrence Wolfe Center for Translational Medicine and Engineering. In addition to tours of the campus, presentations from Rambam's researchers and faculty from the Technion highlighted cutting-edge collaborations that will shape the future of medicine. It is moving to see the next generation of friends of Rambam continuing their commitment to Israel and Rambam with passion and vision.



► The Andi and Larry Wolfe GenX III Mission



A delegation from Haifa's English-speaking Freemason lodge—Mt. Carmel 44—donated age-appropriate Lego sets to adolescents participating in Rambam's eating disorder support program. The Freemasons met with Dr. Golan, Inbar Shahaf, Liat Ariel, director of Rambam's Psychological Service, psychologist Tal Shapira, and other program staff.



► Members of Mt. Carmel Lodge #44 during their visit



On January 22, Prof. Halberthal, Dr. Weissman, Dr. Golan, and Inbar Shahaf welcomed a high-profile delegation from the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) during their Ceasefire Mission to Northern Israel. Rambam was the only hospital on their agenda.

Since October 7, JFNA's generous support has enabled the purchase of life-saving equipment and contributed significantly to Rambam's PTSD program. Prof. Halberthal expressed heartfelt gratitude, emphasizing how deeply moved the Rambam community is by JFNA's commitment to providing critical medical services to the people of Northern Israel.



► L-R: Steve Hoffman, Prof. Miki Halberthal, and Eric Fingerhut



Rambam had the honor of again welcoming Herta Amir for a short visit where she met with Prof. Halberthal, Prof. Beyar, and Dr. Golan. Herta is a visionary philanthropist and one of Rambam's long-time partners. Her generosity is evident throughout the campus. Most recently, thanks to her magnanimous generosity, the historic, Bauhaus-style Internal Medicine Building was renovated and renamed in honor of Herta and her late husband, Paul. Rambam is extraordinarily grateful for her ongoing connection and support, and it was a joy to spend time together during her visit.



► L-R: Dr. Esty Golan, Herta Amir, Prof. Rafi Beyar



On June 11, just two days before the launch of Operation Rising Lion, Rambam welcomed a delegation of public officials from Brazil, coordinated by Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The group was received by Prof. Salem Billan, Director of the Radiotherapy Institute at the Joseph Fishman Oncology Center, and Monica Davidovich. During their visit, Prof. Billan shared insights into the Center's transformative role in cancer care for patients across Northern Israel. They toured the FUEH unaware that within 48 hours, it would be activated in response to the war.



► Members of the delegation with Prof. Billan (center) and Monica Davidovich (to his left)



On September 3, a 60-person delegation of students and teachers from the Jewish Leadership Academy in Miami, FL, led by Mrs. Gisela Ades, Rabbi Dr. Gil. S. Perl and Yosef Albo visited Rambam. During their visit, Prof. Gepstein, Dr. Yehudai-Reshef, and scientists from CRIR presented an overview of their research projects. The students were deeply engaged and curious throughout the discussions, and their passion for Israel was clearly evident.



► Mrs. Gisela Ades, Dr. Esty Golan, Rabbi Perl and Yosef Albo
► Students from the Jewish leadership Academy in Miami FL.



We hosted a delegation from the Jewish Federations of Canada, alongside representatives from the Canadian Jewish summer camps. Their visit reflected their devotion and unwavering solidarity with Israel. They met with Dr. Amit Katz, director of the Department of Thoracic Surgery, who completed fellowships at two leading universities in Montreal. The delegation emphasized the importance of fostering relationships and collaborations with partners who share common values and a commitment to healing.



► Jewish Federations of Canada delegation



While exploring avenues of collaboration, Rahel Danon, general manager of Colgate-Palmolive Israel, met with Dr. Golan, Prof. Gepstein, Prof. Dror Aizenbud, director of the School of Graduate Dentistry and his team. They toured the FUEH and Hemsley which is to become the future location of the School of Graduate Dentistry.



► Rahel Danon with Dr. Golan and Prof. Dror Aizenbud

A 46-member delegation from Rambam traveled to Poland to participate in the annual March of the Living, marking 80 years since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Led by Dr. Mekel, and joined by Prof. Halberthal, the diverse group included medical, administrative, and support staff from Jewish, Christian, and Muslim backgrounds. The delegation joined 15,000 participants from around the world, including Holocaust survivors and October 7 survivors and their families, in the commemorative march.



► Rambam delegation in Poland

Rambam's alliance with the Technion is deeply rooted. During a recent visit by friends from Technion UK, led by CEO Alan Aziz, the progress of the joint TERA Medical AI initiative was showcased. Insightful presentations by Prof. Ciechanover, Prof. Shachor-Meyouhas, and members of the TERA team highlighted the significant advancements being made through this collaboration that brings together researchers, clinicians, engineers, and scientists in a shared mission to advance human health by harnessing large-scale medical datasets and artificial intelligence.



► Technion UK delegation with their Rambam hosts

Dr. Jorge Goldberg, a gastroenterologist at ABC Medical Center, visited Rambam Health with his family on September 4. During their visit, they met with Prof. Halberthal and Dr. Amir Klein, director of the Gastroenterology Institute, to exchange ideas and explore avenues for collaboration. Given Rambam's reputation and ABC's strong academic and clinical foundation, this meeting will strengthen the impactful partnership. We already signed a MOU with ABC Medical Center.



► Dr. Jorge Goldberg and his family

Representatives from Amal U'Meever, Friends of Hibuki, and Haifa Municipality were honored for an extraordinary pilot protocol now woven into everyday care at the Children's Hospital. Through play, Hibuki ("Snuggle"), a sad-eyed stuffed puppy with long hugging arms, helps traumatized children put their emotions and thoughts into words.

The protocol was developed by Dr. Shay Chen Gal, Chief Psychologist at the Amal U'Meever Association, along with Professor Avi Sadeh and Dr. Flora Mor of Tel Aviv University's Department of Psychology.

Prof. Halberthal thanked them and highlighted the program's impact. Dr. Golan, Prof. Daniella Magen, Nobel Laureate Professor Dan Shechtman, Chairman of the Friends of Hibuki, Haifa Deputy Mayor, Mr. Israel Savion, Lilach Asher Topilsky, Chairperson of the Board of Amal U'Meever, Dalia Korkin, CEO of Amal U'Meever, Liora Kalish, CEO of Friends of Hibuki, Dr. Chen Gal, representatives from Bank Hapoalim, and other distinguished guests also participated. A video greeting from President Herzog was screened, praising the project's impact on children in distress.



► L-R: Prof. Miki Halberthal, Liora Kalish, Prof. Tzipora Shechtman, Prof. Dan Shechtman, Dr. Esty Golan, Prof. Daniella Magen, Israel Savion, and Liora Utitz, director of nursing in the Children's Division

Prof. Halberthal hosted a high-level delegation of healthcare executives from the UAE. Presentations by Prof. Yael Shachor-Meyouhas, deputy-director, and Gila Hyams underscored Rambam's internationally recognized trauma-training expertise. Their meetings were followed by tours of the FUEH, the Command Center, and Helmsley, which strengthen opportunities for regional collaboration.

► UAE healthcare executives with Prof. Miki Halberthal, Prof. Hany Bahouth and Gila Hyams

Bravo to friends Dr. Avi Katz, his wife, Dr. Raluca Dinu, Sari Arshadnia—Chief Major Gifts Officer at AFORAM—and many others for supporting and organizing two outstanding fundraising events in Palo Alto and New York. In Palo Alto, at the home of Robin and Boris Feldman, Avi and Raluca's daughter, Dr. Adi Katz Biton, a resident in Rambam's Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, represented the hospital. The following week, on September 13, at the second special event in New York, Dr. Katz Biton captivated the 60-person audience with her presentation. Dr. Omri Emodi, director of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, also attended the event, titled "Rebuilding Faces, Transforming Lives." The New York Philharmonic Orchestra delighted and entertained guests with a memorable performance. Both events welcomed new friends to Rambam—individuals who share the hospital's vision and commitment to excellence.



► Boris and Robin Feldman, Avi Katz and Raluca Dinu, and Adi and her husband Dror



THE CIRCLE OF FRIENDSHIP RAISES THE BAR IN MATERNAL HEALTHCARE

On February 26, Dr. Avi Katz and Dr. Raluca Dinu attended the official opening of the state-of-the-art Doron Feingold Delivery Rooms Unit. Mutual friends and members of Feingold's family also attended.

This milestone honors the memory of Doron Feingold z"l, a childhood friend of Avi Katz and Prof. Zeev Weiner, director of the Division of

Gynecology and Obstetrics. It closes a circle of friendship that began decades ago and continues to live on in every new life welcomed at Rambam. During the ceremony, a moving video celebrating Doron's life and their enduring bond was screened.

Thoughtfully designed to evoke calm and serenity, the Unit offers a peaceful environment where women experience some of the most intimate moments of their lives. It features an expanded emergency department, nine private, state-of-the-art delivery rooms, and a modern maternity wing designed for comfort, safety, and care.

The Katz family's legacy also includes the Mrs. Edith and Prof. Dov Katz Maternal-Fetal Medicine Unit, honoring Avi's parents. Intertwined with memories and miracles, these contributions are reshaping maternal care in Northern Israel.



► Dr. Avi Katz and Dr. Raluca Dinu, Prof. Zeev Weiner, Prof. Miki Halberthal, Dr. Esty Golan with Doron Feingold's mother

CARDIAC REHABILITATION – TRANSFORMING LIVES

On March 9, we celebrated the official opening of the Esthi and Micky Diamant Cardiac Rehabilitation Center at the Eyal Ofer Heart Hospital.

Esthi and Micky Diamant's children Danny Diamant and Ronit Moneta, Diamant family members, friends, management and representatives from MSC Israel including Edni Simkin, Lea Bogatch-Genossar, and distinguished guests watched a moving video chronicling Esthi and Micky's lives. Prof. Halberthal and Prof. Gepstein spoke about the Center's current and future significance, and together with Dr. Golan and Inbar Shahaf, presented certificates of appreciation.

The event concluded with a guided tour of the new Center and the unveiling of a plaque—standing proudly at the entrance, a symbol of healing, legacy, and generosity.

At the Center, a team of expert therapists under



► L-R: Prof. Barak Zafir, Dr. Oren Caspi, Inbar Shahaf, Prof. Gil Bolotin, Dr. Esty Golan, Prof. Miki Halberthal, Edni Simkin, Danny Diamant, Ronit Moneta, Yair Moneta, Prof. Lior Gepstein

the directorship of Prof. Barak Zafir, develop and individualize a rehabilitation program for each patient. This Center is transforming the lives of cardiac patients across Northern Israel as they navigate their recovery.

THE PICCIOTTO FAMILY'S IMPACT ON WOMEN'S HEALTH

On July 3, Rambam welcomed members of the Picciotto family from Brazil whose visionary support ensures that the women of Northern Israel have access to compassionate, cutting-edge obstetric and gynecological care.

The family were received by Prof. Halberthal, Prof. Beyar, Dr. Golan, Prof. Zeev Weiner, Dr. Imad Matanes, director, Picciotto Family Gynecologic Oncology Unit, Dr. Ido Solt, director, High Risk Pregnancy Clinic, Kobi Bossel, director, Engineering and Construction, Monica Davidovich, director, Latin America Desk, and Inbar Shahaf, director, Unit of Resource Development and Donor Relations.

The newly refurbished Picciotto Adolfo & Bella Maternity Department and the Picciotto Jacques & Rita Maternity Department in the Sammy Ofer



► The Picciotto Family with Prof. Rafi Beyar, Dr. Esty Golan, Prof. Zeev Weiner and Prof. Miki Halberthal

Tower, promote respect and modesty, as well as a positive, and high-quality experience for mothers.

The Picciotto Family Gynecologic Oncology Unit is one of the most comprehensive centers of its kind, where multidisciplinary experts provide outstanding and supportive care as patients battle gynecologic cancers.

IFCJ HONORED FOR THEIR UNWAVERING FRIENDSHIP

On July 1, the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews (IFCJ) was honored for their transformative support in advancing clinical care, including their generous donation of a state-of-the-art CT scanner that is enhancing Rambam's imaging capabilities. The scanner is also playing a significant role in medical research through Rambam collaborations with experts in the field.



► Ayelet Shilo Tamir, Safwan Marich, Ben Bachor with Prof. Miki Halberthal, Dr. Esty Golan, Dr. Anat Ilivitzky, Dr. Eyal Berkowitz, Inbar Shahaf, Shirley Erulkar and senior staff from the imaging department

IFCJ executives; Director General Ayelet Shilo Tamir, Safwan Marich, Head of Emergency, Security, and Minority Affairs, and Ben Bachor, Emergency Coordinator, were warmly received by Prof. Halberthal, Dr. Golan, Dr. Anat Ilivitzky, director of the Department of Medical Imaging, Dr. Eyal Berkowitz, deputy director of the Medical Imaging Unit and director of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews CT Unit, and other senior staff from the imaging department.

Prof. Halberthal presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the IFCJ, followed by the unveiling and tour of the newly named Unit.

The IFCJ has supported several projects at Rambam, and in appreciation thereof and in honoring the memory of the IFCJ's visionary founder, Rabbi Eckstein, the Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein Shock Trauma Room was named after him.

The partnership between Rambam and the IFCJ is shaping the future of medicine and the health and well-being of future generations.

JOIN US IN ADVANCING THE SCIENCE OF SIGHT



TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD A NEW HOME FOR RAMBAM'S WORLD-CLASS **EYE INSTITUTE** IN HELMSLEY HEALTH DISCOVERY TOWER. YOUR INVESTMENT WILL SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OPHTHALMOLOGY IN ISRAEL AND BEYOND.

Contact us now for more information on how you can impact the lives of the people of Israel



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